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			EXAMINER	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/525,554

Applicant(s)

UY ET AL.

Examiner

Kidest Bahta

Art Unit

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-15 and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wright et al. (US 6,973,589).

Regarding claims 1, 8, 22, Wright discloses that a field drop coupled to each element (Fig. 1), the field drop for monitoring the element, reporting status data corresponding to the element (Fig. 3), receiving control information for controlling the element (abstract), and in fact controlling such element based on such control information (Fig. 1-3); a local area network (LAN) coupling each field drop to a hub (column 4, lines 1-41); a data server operatively coupled to the hub of the LAN, the data server for receiving the status data from each field drop and taking any appropriate action necessary in response thereto, the data server also allowing a user to access any particular field drop of the system to read data for the corresponding element, and to issue control commands for the element to be carried out by the corresponding field drop (column 4, lines 33-60; column 5, lines 35-61).

Regarding **claims 2-7, 9-16, and 23-25, Wright** discloses,

2. The system of claim 1 wherein each field drop is an Intelligent Electronic Device (IED) (105).

3. The system of claim 2 wherein each IED is a generic device deployable to any of several elements at the power facility (column 4, lines 33-41; elements 125, 130, 135).

4. The system of claim 3 wherein each IED includes configuration information identifying a configuration of the IED, and wherein the data server queries such IED for such configuration information and stores same for later use (column 7, lines 24-50, column 6, lines 6, column 44-57).

5. The system of claim 1 wherein the data server is local to the LAN at the power facility (column 5, lines 36-60, Fig. 1).

6. The system of claim 1 wherein the data server is remote from the LAN at the power facility and coupled thereto by way of a communications network (Fig. 1).

7. The system of claim 1 wherein the data server and each field drop

communicate with each other by way of a TCP/IP communications protocol
(column 6, lines 15-24).

9. The system of claim 8 wherein the data server is configured to know locally how to connect to each LAN, whereby a user requesting to get data from or give a command to a particular element at a particular facility need not be concerned with establishing the actual connection or deciding on a communications protocol.

10. The system of claim 1 wherein the data server receives each command from the user as an HTTP request and forwards same to an appropriate field drop
(column 2, lines 21-30).

11. The system of claim 1 wherein each field drop reports status data and other data to the data server as an HTML/XML page (column 2, lines 21-30).

12. The system of claim 1 wherein each field drop includes configuration information identifying a configuration of the field drop, and wherein the data server queries such field drop for such configuration information and stores same for later use (column 6, lines 44-54).

13. The system of claim 1 wherein each field drop is substantially continuously

connected to the data server by way of the LAN (column 4, lines 43-62).

14. The system of claim 1 wherein the data server stores data as received from each field drop for retrieval by the user (column 7, lines 33-35).

15. The system of claim 1 wherein the LAN is a wireless LAN, and wherein each of each field drop and the hub of the LAN includes a wireless transceiver for communicating within the wireless LAN (column 5, lines 36-60).

16. The system of claim 15 wherein the wireless LAN is implemented in a gigahertz frequency range (it is inherent wireless communication use Ghz).

23. The method of claim 22 comprising the field drop sending an HTTP configuration request to the data server (column 2, lines 23-31).

24. The method of claim 22 comprising the field drop sending the requested configuration information to the data server as part of an HTTP request (column 2, lines 32-31).

25. The method of claim 22 comprising the field drop sending the requested configuration information to the data server as a preformatted web page 9column 6, lines 30-35).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wright et al. (US 6,973,589) in view of Lau. (US. 6,633,998).

Regarding claim 17, Wright discloses method in connection with a system in connection with a power facility having at least one power element, the system for monitoring and/or controlling at least a portion of the power facility and comprising a field drop coupled to each element and a data server operatively coupled to the hub of the LAN, the method for reporting a monitored event requiring timely attention, the method comprising: executing an application at a field drop to monitor a value as obtained by such field drop (column 10, lines 36-60; column 7, lines 50-65; column 6, lines 37-42); the field drop of the application sending the generated request to the data server (column 5, lines 16-35); the data server receiving the sent request (Fig. 1); and the data server based on the sent request taking a programmed action (Fig. 3).

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Wright fails to disclose the application detecting a triggering event when the monitored value exceeds a predetermined threshold; the application generating a request containing event information pertaining to the triggering event.

Lau discloses the application detecting a triggering event when the monitored value exceeds a predetermined threshold (Column 1 and 2); the application generating a request containing event information pertaining to the triggering event (abstract).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the teachings of Wright with the teachings of Lau in order to maintain a central control program, get status updates from the IED, or note local changes of configuration settings of the IED as they are being issued by others.

As regarding claims 18-21, Wright discloses,

18. The method of claim 17 comprising the application generating an HTTP request containing the event information (column 6, lines 9-21, Fig. 3, element 315).

19. The method of claim 18 comprising the application generating the HTTP request including an event-handling application for the data server to execute and the event information formatted according to a format amenable to the event-handling application (Fig. 4; column 4, lines 42-62).

20. The method of claim 19 further comprising the data server executing the event-handling application and passing the formatted event information thereto (Fig. 3, element 315).

21. The method of claim 17 comprising the data server based on the sent request taking

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a programmed action comprising a member selected from a group consisting of notifying a user of the event, and determining a course of action for a field drop to take and commanding such field drop to in fact take such course of action (column 4, lines 42-62).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kidest Bahta whose telephone number is 571-272-3737. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard can be reached on 571-272-3749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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